(b) how many of these documents are pending for registeration recording as on 31st December, 2000;

(c) whether it is a fact that lakhs of pending documents in Registrar Office are not available for inspection or for certified copies to public; and

(d) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

SC guidelines for Fast Track Courts

1455. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court proposes to lay down guidelines for monitoring and functioning of Fast Track Courts being set up in various States;

(b) if so, whether the number of Fast Track Courts would be enhanced in all the States and Judges be appointed to dispose of the cases;

(c) if so, whether the various Bar Councils have given their views on the functioning of Fast Track Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The matter regarding functioning of Fast Track Courts is presently under *sub-judice* in the Supreme Court in the Transfer Case (Civil) No. 22/2001, Brij Mohan Lal Versus Union of India and others. In the said case, as per Order dated 8th November, 2001, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed;

it will be appropriate if some guide-lines are laid down with regard to the functioning of the fast track courts.

(b) to (d) The matter is *sub-judice* involving the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh, Bar Association of Peddapally, A.P. and Others.

Criticism of Fast Track Court Project

1456. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently criticised Government's amibitious scheme to speed up trials under "Fast Track Court' Project;

(b) if so, the number of cases disposed of under the Fast Track Court Scheme since its inception;

(c) the details of lacunae found in the said scheme; and

(d) the reaction of Government on such criticism made by Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No such adverse criticism regarding Fast Track Court Scheme has been communicated by the Supreme Court. Recently, the Supreme Court in its Order dated 8th November, 2001 in the Transfer Case (Civil) No. 22/2001, Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India and Others has observed;

it will be appropriate if some guide-lines are laid down with regard to the functioning of the fast track courts.

(b) So far, the Fast Track Courts in various States have disposed of about 16,066 cases.

(c) and (d) The matter is *sub-judice* in the Supreme Court of India.

Computerisation of Registrar of Companies

1457. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RoC (Registrar of Companies) ruckus-Computerise and let companies go online", which appeared in the Financial Express, dated the 30th October, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed for computerisation of RoC by bringing procedural efficiency and speedy service?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Steps taken by Registrar of companies (RoCs) to meet the rush of filing documents include increrase in the number of cash counters, acceptance of documents beyond the prescribed time, speedier registration of documents cutting down the procedural requirements. The Department of Company Affairs has also authorized 15 additional branches of Punjab National Bank to accept fees payable to RoC in NCT of Delhi & Haryana. Computerisation of the offices of RoCs is an on-going process. The functions of Name Approval and Receipt Counters at the offices of RoCs have already been computerized.